

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

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THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM USMISSION USUN DATED 12 DEC, 73 TO
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CARACAS STOCKHOLM HELSINKI VIENNA
AND USMISSION NATO IS REPTED:

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TAGS: PBOR UN

SUBJ: LOS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: FOURTH AND FIFTH MEETINGS OF LOS CONFERENCE,
DEC 11, WITNESSEDOTRACTED DEBATE ON WHETHER AND HOW
TO PROCEED TO ELECTION OF OFFICERS. AMERASINGHE OPENED
MORNING MEETING WITH REPORT THAT TWO REGIONAL GROUPS
(WEOS AND ASIAN) HAD BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON SLATES OF
CANDIDATES. HIS REQUEST FOR ADJOURNMENT TO PERMIT FUR-
THER CONSULTATIONS, HOWEVER, MET WITH OBJECTION FROM PRC
WHICH PROPOSED THAT CONFERENCE ADOPT "ONE STATE/ONE
SEAT" PRINCIPLE (NO REPRESENTATION ON BOTH GENERAL AND
DRAFTING COMMITTEES FOR ANY PARTICIPANT). ENSUING
DEBATE CAROMED OFF THIS AND OTHER ISSUES RELATING
TO ELECTIONS INCLUDING WHETHER RULES OF PROCEDURE
SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BEFORE COMPLETION OF ELECTION OF
OFFICERS AND UNDER WHAT RULES ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS WOULD
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TAKE PLACE. AFTER SIX HOURS OF RATHER BITTER DEBATE,
CONFERENCE ACCEPTED AMERASINGHE PROPOSAL TO APPLY UNGA
RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR PURPOSES OF ELECTING OFFICERS
AND TO PROCEED TO THAT ELECTION AT DEC 11 PM SESSION.

DEC 12 MORNING MEETING TO BE DEVOTED TO INITIAL CONSIDERATION OR RULES OF PROCEDURE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOURTH MEETING OF LOS CONFERENCE CONVENED DEC 11 AM TO CONSIDER ELECTION OF OFFICERS. AMERASINGHE REPORTED THAT TWO REGIONAL GROUPS (WEOS AND ASIAN) HAD NOT AGREED UPON SINGLE SLATE OF RESPECTIVE CANDIDATES AND HAD REQUESTED MORE TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS. AMERASINGHE ENDORSED SUGGESTION AND REQUESTED CONFERENCE AGREE ON NO-OBJECTION BASIS TO ADJOURN TO COMPLETE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS. HIS MOVE FAILED WHEN PRC FORMALLY PROPOSED THAT CONFERENCE ADOPT "ONE STATE/ONE SEAT" PRINCIPLE (NO REPRESENTATION FOR ANY PARTICIPANT ON BOTH GENERAL AND DRAFTING COMMITTEES) PRC INTERVENTION TRIGGERED EXTENDED DEBATE NOT ONLY ON ISSUE OF DUAL REPRESENTATION BUT ALSO ON WHETHER AND HOW ELECTION OF OFFICERS WOULD TAKE PLACE; WHETHER TO PROCEED TO DISCUSSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE BEFORE RESOLVING ELECTION ISSUE AND UNDER WHAT RULES CONFERENCE OPERATES PRIOR TO ADOPTING ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE.

3. PRC POSITION RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM PERU, ALBANIA, SPAIN, ALGERIA AND, CURIOUSLY, VENEZUELA. USSR STRONGLY OPPOSED PRC PROPOSAL, REFERRING TO AMERASINGHE'S PREVIOUS RULING THAT EACH REGIONAL GROUP IS COMPETENT TO DECIDE UPON REPRESENTATION FOR ITS MEMBERS. SOVIET REP CITED UN PRECEDENT FOR SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL BASED UPON THEIR SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN INT'L PEACE AND SECURITY UNDER THE UN CHARTER.

4. US REP (STEVENSON) NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT REGIONAL GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL STATES DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES ON QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION. IN OTHER WORDS THERE COULD BE NO CONFERENCE AGREEMENT ON "ONE STATE/ONE SEAT" RULE. HE APPEALED TO PARTICIPANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON TASK OF FACILITATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SUCCESSFUL LOS CONFERENCE. SUCH AN EFFORT REQUIRED ACCOMMODATION OF ONE NATION/ONE VOTE PRINCIPLE WITH NEED TO NEGOTIATE TREATY WHICH CAN BE RATIFIED BY ALL. SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES MUST BE TEMPERED BY INSURING THAT ALL POINTS OF VIEW ARE ACCOMMODATED IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS. REQUIREMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE, THEREFORE, CONTRADICT "ONE STATE/ONE SEAT" PRINCIPLE, WHICH GIVEN REGIONAL GROUP MIGHT DECIDE TO APPLY TO ITSELF, BUT WHICH WOULD BE ARBITRARY AND DANGEROUS TO APPLY TO CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE.

5. FRANCE FLATLY STATED DEMAND FOR EQUAL TREATMENT

WITH US AND USSR AS PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SC, INCLUDING WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT "ONE STATE/ONE SEAT" PRINCIPLE ON CONDITION THAT IT APPLIED TO ALL (OTHER PERMANENT SC MEMBERS) AND THAT IT NOT CONSTRUED AS PRECEDENT OUTSIDE LOS CONFERENCE.

6. FRENCH REP ALSO CHALLENGED EARLIER AMERASINGHE PROPOSAL THAT UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE BE APPLIED FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS. HE CONTENDED THAT PRIOR TO ADOPTING ITS OWN, CONFERENCE HAS NO RULES OF PROCEDURE AND MUST THEREFORE OPERATE BY CONSENSUS. IN THIS REGARD, HE CITED "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT AS PRECEDENT.

7. AF CHAIRMAN (UGANDA) AND LA CHAIRMAN (ARGENTINA) REPORTED THAT THEIR GROUPS WOULD ABIDE BY "ONE STATE/ ONE SEAT" PRINCIPLE, IN THEIR CLAIMS FOR REPRESENTATION BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THIS DECISION APPLIED ONLY TO THEMSELVES. AS TO PRC PROPOSAL, IF IT WERE VOTED UPON, MEMBERS OF RESPECTIVE GROUPS WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY GROUP DECISION. LEBANON REPORTED "STRONG TENDENCY" WITHIN ASIAN GROUP TO OPPOSE DUAL REPRESENTATION FOR ANY STATE. EE CHAIRMAN (BULGARIA) REVIEWED REGIONAL GROUP CONSULTATIONS WITH AMERASINGHE AND ARGUED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CLEAR REJECTION OF APPLYING "ONE STATE/ONE SEAT" PRINCIPLE TO CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE. HE NOTED THAT PRC PROPOSAL WOULD MEAN DICTATION BY ONE REGIONAL GROUP TO OTHERS.

8. TANZANIA PROPOSED THAT CONFERENCE SWITCH TO CONSIDERATION; OF RULES OF PROCEDURE SINCE TIME IS RUNNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OUT ON ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION AND ADDITIONAL TIME MIGHT PERMIT WEO AND AS GROUPS TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER CANDIDATES. TANZANIA PROPOSAL DREW WIDESPREAD SUPPORT. HOWEVER, FRENCH CONTENTION THAT CONSENSUS RULE PREVAILS UNTIL CONFERENCE ADOPTS ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE, LED TO CONTENTUOUS DEBATE ON HOW ELECTION OF OFFICERS WOULD BE EFFECTED. ON ONE EXTREME FRANCE, SUPPORTED BY USSR AND UK, INVOKED GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT TO ARGUE THAT CONSENSUS MUST PREVAIL UNTIL RULES OF PROCEDURE ARE ADOPTED. ON OTHER SIDE, CHILE CLAIMED THAT CONFERENCE HAS ALREADY; TACITLY ACCEPTED UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONFERENCE HAS BEEN OPERATING ON THIS BASIS SINCE OPENING OF SESSION. KENYA PROPOSED THAT CONFERENCE TAKE FORMAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO APPLY UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE, WHILE JAPAN, THOUGH GENERALLY SUPPORTING UK AND FRENCH POSITION, ARGUED THAT UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE COULD BE INVOKED TO APPLY TO ELECTION OF OFFICERS ONLY.

9. CONTENT AS WELL AS LENGTH OF DEBATE SPARKED DEMANDS

FROM NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS TO BRING ELECTION
ISSUE IMMEDIATELY TO VOTE. CANADA, CAMEROON
AND JAMAICA ALL MADE STRONG APPEALS FOR
RATIONAL RES OF ISSUE, WITH EMPHASIS UPON
ALLOWING WEOS AND ASIANS TIME FOR ONE MORE EFFORT TO
RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES, BUT SETTING FINAL DEADLINE
ON ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

10. IN EFFORT TO RESCUE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION,
AMERASINGHE CLOSED MEETING WITH PROPOSAL THAT CON-
FERENCE PROCEED TO ELECTION OF OFFICERS DEC 12 PM,
APPLYING UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THAT PURPOSE ALONE.
(FORMAL VOTING WOULD OF COURSE TAKE PLACE ONLY IF WEO
AND ASIAN GROUPS ARE UNABLE RESOLVE THEIR
DIFFERENCES ON CANDIDATES BY THAT TIME),. HE ANNOUNCED
DEC 12 AM, SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO INITIAL DISCUSSION
OF RULES OF PROCEDURE.

11. COMMENT: IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT ELECTION OF
OFFICERS WILL COME TO VOTE. INFORMATION AVAILABLE
AS OF OPENING BUSINESS DEC 12 INDICATES NO PROGRESS
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TOWARD AGREEMENT WITHIN WEO GROUP. WE ALSO; UNDER-
STAND AMERASINGHE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO PERMIT VOTE
ON PRC "ONE STATE/ONE SEAT" PROPOSAL. IF, AS IS
PROBABLE, AMERASINGHE WILL RULE THIS OUT OF ORDER, FORMAL
VOTE ON ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE, IN WHICH
US CANDIDACIES WILL BE V

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